

City Visions

A Monthly Publication Of
The City of Morgan Hill
December 2000



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...and what to do with those trees!

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Traffic Congestion Help On The Way

THE MORNING congestion on many Morgan Hill streets has gotten dramatically worse in the past several months. The only long-term solution is the Highway 101 widening. However, the City has made some improvements and will be taking additional steps to mitigate the impact of congestion on local residents, businesses and schools.

The City Council has directed staff to move forward on a number of specific congestion relief strategies and to convene a Congestion Relief Summit. The Summit is intended to reach commitments from other agencies such as Caltrans, the Valley Transportation Authority, and the Santa Clara County Department of Roads.

• SEE "CONGESTION" PAGE 5

Local Businesses Need To Do Their Part To Meet Recycling Goals

AS MOST residents know, the City has been working aggressively to get our waste diversion rate in compliance with California mandates. The active participation of many residents and businesses has brought our diversion rate up to 45% in 1999. Since this rate is under the 50% mandated by State law, the City needs to consider what additional changes should be



• SEE "RECYCLING" PAGE 2

made in the program at this time in order to enhance our diversion rate. Recently completed studies indicate that 20% of the "wastes" being discarded by residents and 30% of the "wastes" being discarded by local businesses could be easily recycled.

With this in mind, the City Council directed staff to implement a five-point enhancement to the program at its November 1 meeting. Staff is now working on the following items.

1. Adding plastics 3-7 to the recycling program and obtaining more accurate data on the City's job growth rate that will improve the calculated diversion rate;
2. Amending the solid waste franchise agreement to eliminate the collection of corrugated cardboard, when it is visible to the driver, with residential garbage;
3. Using temporary employees to help the drivers audit compliance with the City's rules regarding the disposal of yard trimmings and corrugated cardboard and to promote the recycling program at the curb;
4. Contracting with a waste reduction expert to provide technical assistance to local businesses showing them how they can benefit from recycling and ordering recycling services and materials on the businesses' behalf; and
5. Expanding the recycling opportunities available to local businesses to include pallets, food waste, and other materials.

These relatively minor adjustments to the recycling program are all designed to encourage reluctant recyclers to participate. If these measures are not effective, or if participation in the City's recycling program falls off, the City may need to implement volume-based rates and/or weekly recycling collection in the future. 📧 • *Article by Anthony Eulo, Environmental Programs Manager, 779-7247 or teulo@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov*

Local Programming Channel 17

Getting There by Bike	10:30AM & 5:30PM	DAILY
Pedal Smarts	11:00AM & 6PM	DAILY
Bicycle Zone	11:30AM & 6:30PM	DAILY
State of The City Address	12:00PM	MON/ TUES
Planning Commission Replay	7pm LIVE 12:00PM 12:00PM	12/12 12/13 12/16
City Council / RDA Replay	7 pm LIVE 12:00PM 12:00PM	12/6 12/7 12/11
City Council / RDA Replay	7 pm LIVE 12:00PM 12:00PM	12/20 12/21 12/24

Block Grant Process Begins

THE CITY'S annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation process will begin in January 2000 with a public service announcement appearing in the Morgan Hill Times. The deadline for receiving proposals from nonprofit agencies for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 is Friday, February 16, 2001.

Eligible projects must:

- Benefit low or very low income persons;
- Help eliminate slum or blight; or
- Meet an urgent community need such as a threat to community health or welfare for which no other funds are available.

Programs that have received funding in the past include: domestic violence shelters, senior services, youth services, and disaster preparedness.

The City of Morgan Hill has participated in the CDBG program since 1977 and anticipates receiving approximately \$34,500 for public service activities. For more information, or to receive a project proposal packet, please call Business Assistance and Housing Services at 776-7373. 📧 • *Article by Garrett Toy, Director of Business Assistance and Housing Services, 776-7373 or bahs@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov*

INFO TAP

CITY OF MORGAN HILL
Utility News

Are You Prepared For Winter Weather?

*A*s many residents prepared for little “trick-or-treaters” to arrive at their doors, perhaps the earlier-than-usual rains caused some of them to wonder if they were also adequately prepared for the arrival of the upcoming rainy season. These several days of early rainstorms are a good reminder that now is the time to prepare for upcoming winter storms.

City Crews Prepare for Winter Storms

On the City side, Public Works maintenance crews have been following a flood prevention routine



Above: Free sand and sandbags are available to residents. Remember to bring your own shovel!



Left: Wrapping exposed pipes can prevent pipe damage when temperatures drop.

that begins in late summer. These annual tasks include vacuuming leaves/debris from catch basins and curbs, and clearing debris and vegetation from sections of drainage channels that are maintained by the City. A number of drainage channels are maintained by either the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Valley Water District, or private property owners.

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What Can You Do?

In addition to the work in public areas by City crews, there are some home maintenance tips that you can take to minimize flooding and rain damage.

A good starting point is to check rain gutters and drain spouts. Making sure these areas are clear and free of debris ensures that the rain will follow a designated flow, rather than backing up and creating unnecessary ponding around your home. It's also a good idea to trim back tree branches that overhang portions of your rain gutters.

An additional step you can take is to use your garden hose to run some water through your rain gutters to clear out any dirt and debris that have collected and to check for unobstructed water flow.

While you've got the ladder out, this is also a good time to make sure that rain gutter connections are intact and that no sagging has occurred since last time you checked them. The weight of water-soaked debris in those gutters can send one of them crashing down, making the entire connected system com-

pletely unusable.



Free Sand and Sandbags Available

The Public Works Department will again provide sandbags and sand at no charge to city residents.

These are available at 100 Edes Court. The allowable limit is 15 sandbags.

Be sure to bring your own shovel to fill the sandbags.


Additionally, the Santa Clara Valley Water District has sandbags and sand

available at the El Toro Fire Station

which is at the intersection of Old Monterey Road and Llagas Road.

Protecting Water Pipes from Freezing Temperatures

The cooler season can bring water damage from water freezing in fire sprinkler systems, home irrigation systems, and other exposed piping. Water expands when it freezes, causing hairline fractures, a pulling apart at joints, and even pipe ruptures.

- If you plan to be away from your home for a few days and cooler weather is in the forecast, consider turning off your water. If you need assistance in locating turn-off valves, don't hesitate to contact the Public Works Department at 776-7337.
- Wrap exposed piping with some sort of insulating material. A homemade solution can be any type of bulky, warm wrapping — such as an old blanket. Cover the wrapping with protective plastic to keep it dry.  • Article by Jay Jaso, Management Analyst, 776-7337 or jayj@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Public Works Department at 776-7337. In addition, those with Internet access will find a helpful web site at www.fema.gov. For those with children, this web site has a "FEMA for Kids" section that includes children's learning games that help answer questions and alleviate fears about disaster preparedness activities.

When Will My Garbage & Recycling Be Collected During The Holidays?

Just as in the past, garbage and recycling will not be collected on Christmas or New Year's Day. For these weeks, service will be delayed by one day for all customers. In other words, if your normal collection day is Wednesday, it will be on Thursday during the weeks of these holidays.


Holiday trees can be placed out for collection on your service day between December 26 and January 14. After January 14, trees will be collected on your yard trimmings collection day only. Trees need to be cut into three foot lengths and all lights and decorations should be removed. Flocked trees are considered garbage.

Look in your December mail for the 2001 City of Morgan Hill ECO Calendar. This calendar contains your A/B collection schedule and handy event information for residents of Morgan Hill. 



Some of the specific short-term strategies authorized by the Council are:

- Improve the Main/Condit intersection by immediately installing an interim traffic signal and adding a right turn lane on northbound Condit and designing a permanent signal;
- Adjust the timing/synchronization of all City traffic signals and adjust as necessary to enhance traffic flow;
- Work with the School District to expand the use of school bus transportation and to modify school starting times to reduce conflicts with commuter traffic;
- Expand traffic enforcement efforts in select areas to discourage out-of-area commuters from using local roads and to reduce illegal maneuvers that cause congestion;
- Work with VTA to market and increase CalTrain service and bus service to light rail stations;
- Work with Caltrans to stop the movement from the northbound 101/Cochrane off-ramp to the on-ramp and modify the painted median on Cochrane at this location to add a westbound through lane;
- Work with San Jose Christian College to eliminate the use of their private parking lot as a short cut from Mission View Dr. to Cochrane Rd. in order to reduce congestion on Cochrane;
- Lengthen the painted left turn lanes on southbound Monterey at Cochrane to enhance safety on Monterey; and
- Switch Monterey travel lanes at the railroad underpass to two northbound lanes and one southbound lane to improve traffic safety at the Monterey/Old Monterey intersection and encourage afternoon through commuters to use Cochrane and Butterfield/Dunne to reach 101 and avoid the Downtown.

Many of these improvements will be in place before January 1. While these strategies should enhance safety and reduce traffic, congestion is likely to remain present in Morgan Hill until the 101 widening is completed. With this in mind, City officials continue to urge the Valley Transportation Authority to expedite the 101 expansion project. If you have questions or concerns about the timing or elements of the 101 widening project, contact VTA's Community Outreach office at 321-7575 or community.outreach@vta.org .  • *Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager, 779-7247 or teulo@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov*



CITY OFFICES CLOSED DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 1

City offices will be closed in observance of the Christmas and New Years holidays. We wish you a joyful and safe holiday season. All city offices will reopen on January 2.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED JANUARY 15

City offices will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

COMPOST WORKSHOP JANUARY 20

Attendees of Morgan Hill Home Composting workshops discover the benefits of gardening using their own compost. The next class is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, from 9-11AM at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 299-4147.



City Elected Officials

Mayor Dennis Kennedy	779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore Steve Tate	779-6992
Councilmember Hedy L. Chang	778-0511
Councilmember Cynthia J. Cook	683-2448
Councilmember Greg Sellers	778-2370
City Clerk Irma Torrez	779-7259
City Treasurer Michael Roorda	778-3653

City Department Heads

City Manager J. Edward Tewes
City Attorney Helene L. Leichter
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director Garrett Toy
Community Development Director David Bischoff
Council Services and Records Manager Irma Torrez
Finance Director Jack Dilles
Acting Human Resources Manager Melissa Stevenson Dile
Police Chief Steve Schwab
Public Works Director Jim Ashcraft

Contacting Your City

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM
Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Building Inspection	779-7241
Business Assistance & Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation	779-7271
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	779-7278

City Hall Fax Number 779-3117
City Website: <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov>

Contact The Editor

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome. Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.